

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

If a decent grant be given to them, they would open Science classes there.

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

I had no information. When I applied for the affiliation of the Ernakulam College, I stated as my ground that there was no First Grade College in Cochin nor in the neighbouring District of Malabar, but later on, St. Thomas and Palghat have come into the field, and we are now having perhaps too much of a good thing. That much about the First Grade College.

Secondary Education.—

Many of the members are of opinion that we are spending too much on Secondary education, and that Secondary education should be left to private bodies. Several members spoke about the expensive nature of Secondary education. You cannot form a correct idea about it, unless you take the income and the expenditure together. You have more than 3 lakhs under Educational income, and most of this comes from Secondary schools, the fees in the Primary department being only nominal. The bulk of the income is from your Secondary schools, so that, when you speak about the expenditure that we incur on Secondary schools, you should take into account the income from those institutions. You will see that very many of our Boys' Secondary schools are self-supporting. Taking the figures for 1909, the High School, Ernakulam, for instance, worked at a profit of Rs. 2,154, excluding expenditure on buildings. The Trippunittura High School worked at a profit of Rs. 840. There are Secondary schools newly started where the expenditure is heavier. Take the case of Mulanturuttu. We find there a net expenditure of Rs. 1,142; at Narakkal a net expenditure of Rs. 726; at Cranganur a net expenditure of Rs. 1,824. There is the Chittur High School where the net expenditure is only Rs. 13; from Kunnamkulam we get a profit of Rs. 980; so that, you see, these Boys' Secondary schools are more or less self-supporting. We are not spending much upon them.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May I know, Sir, why you give a reduced grant to Primary schools in which English is taught as an

optional subject? May I know the principle on which this distinction is based?

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

The principle adopted is that the provision of elementary education is the duty of Government, and it has to be given free. But so far as English education is concerned, it is intended for well-to-do people who can afford to pay for it. The scale of fees is high, and the whole thing is adjusted in such a way that, when a new Secondary school is started, or when a new class is opened, the thing works on the basis of self-support. In short, what I say is, you do not gain much in handing over Sirkar Secondary schools to private agencies. In my personal capacity, I favoured the transfer of Secondary schools to private agencies. The Government too were for it; and we have been trying to transfer our responsibility to private bodies. I may say that no new Government High School has been opened after I came to be in charge of the department. But you should not understand from this that you would be saving very much by handing over Secondary schools to private agencies. In the shape of grants to private agencies, we give about three-fourths of the net expenditure of a school, so that what the management has to spend is only one-fourth of the net expenditure. But, of course, what Government gains is the capital expenditure on buildings. In the present state of our finances, we cannot afford to spend much on buildings. We have provided very liberal building grants. Of course, these things are in the Code. But we have practically ceased giving building and equipment grants. We pay now only recurring grants. In the management of Secondary schools, we are encouraging private agencies. If there is any one Government Secondary school in the Cochin State that is superfluous and could be done away with, it is the Sirkar High School at Trichur. There, we have three aided High Schools in the heart of the town. The Catholics have a High School, the Protestants one, and the Hindus one, I mean the Vivekodayam School. Most of the communities were thus represented, and so I suggested that the Sirkar school might be closed, and Government approved of the idea; but when the Diwan

visited Trichur the next time, he was given a very hot welcome.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

He was in a hornet's nest. He was simply bombarded.

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

So even in places, where we could transfer the management of Sirkar Secondary schools to private agencies, we have difficulties. In Cochin we have so many different communities and conflicting interests, and Government has to proceed very cautiously. We should see that the several communities are satisfied. They have District Boards and Municipalities in Madras, who manage and run schools and colleges with Municipal funds. There are no agencies corresponding to them in our State. This year, for instance, when a new Convent High School was started in Trichur, I was trying to get rid of one of the divisions of the IV Form in the Victoria Sirkar Girls' High School, in order to reduce expenditure and relieve congestion. In spite of persuasions, the Headmistress of the institution could not induce a single girl to leave the School. In this direction there is much difficulty to contend with. We are doing all that is in our power. I would request the non-official members to understand the situation before they begin to criticise. No doubt, Secondary education does cost something like rupees three lakhs. But the net expenditure is less than a lakh, and that is mainly due to our Girls' schools. In all, there are 7 Government Girls' High Schools and 2 private Girls' High Schools in the State. The expenditure is very heavy in the case of these Girls' High Schools. The following are the figures for 1929:—

The Girls' High School, Trippunittura	Rs. 7,320
do Ernakulam	„ 7,032
do Cranganur	„ 7,553
do Irinjalakkuda	„ 7,732
do Trichur	„ 10,002
do Kunnamkulam	„ 7,217

We have only two High Schools for girls under private management in the State. On these we spend

Rs. 14,049. What we find is that the net outlay on Secondary education is swallowed up by these institutions. We may well ask whether it is worth while to maintain Secondary schools for girls at such high cost. We are paying heavily for the Secondary education of our girls. Here, I may point out that the neighbouring State of Travancore is our rival in education. But we have outstripped them so far as girls' education is concerned, and we pay dearly for it.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

We are spending 75 per cent on this account.

Mr. T. K. KRISHNA MENON (*Secretary to the Legislative Council*).

I would like to know the gross income from Secondary schools.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Rs. 2,25,000.

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

Girls' schools are expensive, for this reason: in Girls' schools, classes are smaller, and fees are charged at only half rates, and the staff is also more costly. I admit the strength of that criticism. Another honourable member said that the young men turned out from our Secondary schools do not get any employment. That does not mean that we should abolish our Secondary schools. It only points to the necessity for the remodelling of our Secondary education. Another honourable member said that Agricultural education should be made compulsory in our schools. We are doing something in this direction. We started Agriculture as an optional subject for School Final in one of our High Schools two years ago. At Chalakudi I came across a History graduate, a man who had a talent for Agriculture, and so I have started an Agricultural class there. I found another graduate at Tiruvilluamala, who had passed out of the Coimbatore Agricultural College, and so I have proposed the starting of an Agricultural class there. We are trying to give Agricultural education in a small way. We are also imparting Technical education in many of the High Schools in the State—Book-keeping, Short-hand, Commercial Correspondence, and

that sort of thing. You know, the curriculum of the School Final Examination is elastic enough to include all sorts of subjects. It provides for purely literary instruction in subjects like English, Sanskrit, History and Mathematics, and for Science subjects like Chemistry, Physics, Botany and Agriculture. We are trying also to introduce Industrial subjects as optionals for the School Final. A certain number of pupils from the three High Schools of Trichur are now attending the Government Trades School for the study of Industrial subjects. In Girls' schools we have introduced House-keeping and Nursing. In the Trichur Girls' High School many of the students have taken these subjects which they study cheerfully. We have arranged this with the co-operation of the Medical Department. The girls attend the Hospital, and the Lady Doctor gives them practical training, which is more useful than bookish knowledge. The same thing is done at Ernakulam. At Irinjalakkuda also we have introduced these subjects. We have also Music as an optional for girls. This year we have Painting, Drawing and Designing, as other optional groups for girls. At Trichur one of the Art teachers of the Industrial School teaches these subjects in the Girls' High School.

One of the members spoke of supernumerary teachers in schools. It is true, we have such in some schools at the beginning of the year. Three weeks are allowed for admissions and withdrawals, and it takes 5 or 6 weeks after the re-opening, for adjusting the staffs of schools. Until then the superfluous teachers remain, but I must point out that, for a superfluity in one school, there would be a deficiency in another. At present there are no superfluous hands, except that, where there are many optional subjects to be taught, you will find one teacher in excess of the number of classes.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

What is the average expenditure for aided Girls' Secondary Schools?

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

We spend Rs. 14,000 and odd on the two aided Girls' High Schools. Aided teachers have no pension. So the pay of teachers in aided service is sometimes

more than in Government schools. We pay higher grants on this account.

Primary Education.—

Then, coming to Primary Education, I am glad to find that all of you agree as regards the duty of the State in the matter of spreading elementary education. I think there is absolutely no difference of opinion between non-officials and Government in regard to this matter. We have adopted it as our definite policy to extend mass education. Looking into the budget, you will find we are spending more than two-thirds on elementary education. The net outlay on Education during the year 1999 was 7 lakhs of rupees, of which 5 lakhs was spent on Primary Education.

The bulk of the expenditure on Secondary Education is on the schools for girls. Against 7 Sirkar Girls' High Schools, there are only 2 aided High Schools for girls. That is why the expenditure on private schools is very much less than that on Government schools.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Will the Honourable Member inform me whether the Convent at Trichur applied for recognition and whether it was refused?

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

It was granted by me three months ago.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

What about the circular about the maximum and minimum strength?

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

I am coming to it. I simply drew attention to what was in the Code. In past years I used to give liberal concessions. In the present condition of the finances of the State, Government are fully justified in strictly enforcing the minimum fixed by the Code. For instance, in the case of a Primary school with 100 pupils, we pay Rs. 100 or 150 as monthly grant. Since the scale of grant is liberal, Government are justified in insisting on an adequate return for the grant given. These circulars are issued weeks before the schools commence work. This is done, so that the village